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NASA Administrator Announces Out-Of-This-World Opportunity For Teachers

Administrator Sean O'Keefe and Florida First Lady Columba Bush have outlined a unique NASA program designed to show learning in a whole new light by giving students and teachers across the country an out-of-this-world experience.

"I am proud of Florida's unique role in our nation's space program. In order for that program to enjoy continued success, we must excite school children into learning about science and mathematics," said Fla. First Lady Bush.



"This program is wonderful because it will reveal the endless possibilities of space exploration to a new generation, just like many of the today's NASA scientists were inspired by a similar calling in the 1960's," Bush said.

The program's goals are to generate renewed interest in science and mathematics and cultivate a new generation of scientists and engineers by nominating and recruiting educators for NASA's astronaut corps.

"NASA leads the most ambitious exploration and scientific research efforts in history," said Administrator O'Keefe. "It's a legacy that is in jeopardy unless we find innovative ways to get students and the entire education community excited about mathematics and science. We believe the Educator Astronaut Program will help us fulfill our mandate to inspire that next generation of explorers," he said.

Teachers who want the chance to join the Educator Astronaut Program may apply using the Educator Astronaut website at: <http://edspace.nasa.gov>. The application deadline is April 30, 2003.

Educators with questions about the program, or who do not have access to the Internet, can call (877 332-7876) toll-free.

NASA will review the applications and select Educator Astronaut candidates to begin training at the Johnson Space Center to join the astronaut corps.

After graduation, new Educator Astronauts will be eligible for a Space Shuttle flight assignment as fully trained Mission Specialists.

"Educator Astronauts will be able to provide a direct connection between America's teachers and students, and the various careers and opportunities associated with space exploration through the Nation's aerospace program," said Associate Administrator for Education Dr. Adena Williams Loston, who will manage the program. "Education has always been a part of NASA's mission, and we have renewed our commitment to get students excited about science, technology, engineering and mathematics again," Loston said.

Teachers and representatives from approximately 15 national education organizations and associations, including the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, the National Science Teachers Association and Virginia's 2002 Teacher of the Year, joined with NASA in making the announcement.

NASA is also working with industry, and other federal, state and local governments to engage educators, students and the public.

Students, educators, parents, and anyone interested in participating in the program are invited to join the Educator Astronaut "Earth Crew." The Earth Crew is a web-based interactive initiative linking audiences with education activities and programs, astronaut profiles, and basic information about NASA, living and working in space.

Nominations and access to the Educator Astronaut Program are available through the Internet, along with additional information about NASA's education initiatives at:

<http://edspace.nasa.gov>
<http://education.nasa.gov/>
<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov>

Wallops Shorts..... Launch

The first of two NASA Terrier-Orion sounding rockets was launched from Esrange, Sweden on January 24.

The experiment (MaCWAVE) is to study the upward propagation and penetration of mountain waves from Northern Norway into the mesosphere, lower thermosphere. The principal investigator is Dr. Richard Goldberg, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

Supporting SAGE III

NASA researchers have joined more than 350 scientists from the United States, the European Union, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Poland, Russia and Switzerland to measure ozone and other atmospheric gases using aircraft, sounding rockets, large and small balloons, ground-based instruments and satellites as part of the SAGE III (Stratospheric Aerosol and Gas Experiment) campaign.

Frank Schmidlin, Upper Air Instrumentation Research Projects, in the Wallops Observational Science Branch, is launching a series of Super Loki Falling Spheres, one per day for 16 days, from Esrange during the campaign. Radiosonde balloons will be launched at the same time.

NASA Academy Program

The Goddard Space Flight Center is again sponsoring the NASA Academy program this summer (students are undergraduates and graduates).

The Program is assembling an Academy Selection Committee to assist in choosing this year's student participants and has asked for a Wallops representative on the committee.

Individuals from Wallops are needed to present their programs/projects, as single or multiple workshops. The presentation may take place here or at Greenbelt, depending on the amount of time they are available when here.

The students also are looking for short-term projects that they can work on as a group during the summer. If needed, the project may be extended into the school year.

Contact Ed Parrott on x1681 by January 31 for more information or if you are interested in serving on the selection committee, presenting a workshop or have a proposal for a project.

Space Experiment Module Students Attend Shuttle Launch



Photo by Berit Bland

Berit Bland, Wallops Space Experiment Module (SEM) Education Outreach Coordinator, accompanied students from Mott Hall School in New York City (above) and Shoshone-Bannack High School in Fort Hall, Idaho (below) to Florida where they visited NASA Kennedy Space Center and attended the launch of Space Shuttle Columbia STS-107 on Jan. 16, 2003.

Both groups have experiments on board SEM-14 in the Shuttle's cargo bay. The Mott Hall students are studying "Wearable Radiation Protection" and the Shoshone-Bannack students have an experiment called "Natural Space Art". Visit <http://sspp.gsfc.nasa.gov/sem/new/sem14.html> for more information on experiments on SEM-14.



Thanks!

Eighteen Wallops employees took part in the American Red Cross Blood Drive on January 15, donating 18 usable pints of blood.

Wallops In the News

Aviation Week

"ICESat, CHIPSat Launched After Delay"

Nature Magazine

"Fair Play for Trial Balloons"

Nature Magazine

"Up, Up, and Away"

Hampton Roads Daily Press

"New Language Meant to Mollify Florida Lawmakers Concerns Over Wallops"

Center Director to Address Employees

The State of the Center Address previously scheduled for January 10 has been rescheduled to Thursday, February 6.

Center Director A.V. Diaz will make the presentation at 9 a.m. in the Building 8 (Greenbelt) auditorium and by way of Wallops TV Channel 6.

For Rent

Spacious 2 bedroom apartment on Chincoteague, close to town, freshly painted. Laundry room nearby. Available in February, \$400 deposit, \$450/month plus electricity. Contact Jerry Doyon at (757) 336-0065.

Virginia Space Flight Academy Camp Schedule

If you know a child that is interested in how rockets and spaceships fly, aerodynamics, micro gravity, astronaut training, extraterrestrial travel and the role of radar, weather and robotics, Virginia Space Flight Academy is the place for them to be this summer!

At the Space Flight Academy camps, held at NASA Wallops Flight Facility, young space enthusiasts are involved in a host of exciting, hands-on experiences. In addition to building and launching their own model rockets, they engineer and conduct a simulated rocket launch from the Wallops control room while seated behind computer consoles with individual headsets. Returning to the program this year, are activities that make use of robotics kits and flight simulators.

Virginia Space Flight Academy offers students a unique opportunity to enjoy a week-long, fun filled summer camp experience, combined with educational field trips to NASA, NOAA and U.S. Navy facilities. Employees explain the functions of the facilities and the educational background required for employment, giving students insight into career development opportunities.

"This past summer seven one-week camps were conducted with enrollment limited to the first 28 pre-paid students," said Robert Marshall, Executive Director. "The actual enrollment for the summer of 2002 was 191, up from 75 the previous summer and 33 the summer of 2001. Last year the camps sold out two months in advance, so early registration is encouraged."

Ten camps, for 12-15 year old coed students, will be held beginning June 15 thru August 17, 2003. Each camp begins on Sunday afternoon and ends on Friday at 2 p.m. Tuition is \$595, which includes double occupancy housing, meals, transportation while at camp, a workbook, T-shirt, and all instructional materials.

The Academy is supported by the NASA, the Eastern Shore Regional Partnership, the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority, NOAA and the U.S. Navy.

For more information, telephone toll free (866) 757-7223, e-mail: spaceacademy@intercom.net or visit the web site:

www.VaSpaceFlightAcademy.org

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Editor

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